

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A device for combining components, comprising:
 - a) a hollow member and a rotor that includes one or more blades positioned at least partially within the hollow member, wherein the rotor blades are rotationally driven and the hollow member is not rotationally driven rotates in a first combining mode; and
 - b) a plurality of fins extending outwardly from the hollow member, wherein the hollow member is rotationally driven rotates in a second combining mode.
2. (original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising an interlock assembly adapted to permit selectively operating the device in the first combining mode or the second combining mode.
3. (original) The device of Claim 2, wherein the interlock assembly is adapted to permit the rotor to rotate independent of the hollow member in the first combining mode and to interlock the hollow member and the rotor so that the hollow member rotates with the rotor in the second combining mode.
4. (original) The device of Claim 3, wherein the interlock assembly is adapted to restrict rotation of the hollow member in the first combining mode.

5. (currently amended) The device of Claim 2, wherein the interlock assembly comprises a first one-way bearing mounted to the rotor and the hollow member, wherein the first one-way bearing is adapted to permit rotation in a first rotary direction but not in a second opposite rotary direction.
6. (currently amended) The device of Claim 5, A device for combining components, comprising:
 - a) a hollow member and a rotor at least partially within the hollow member, wherein the rotor rotates in a first combining mode;
 - b) a plurality of fins extending outwardly from the hollow member, wherein the hollow member rotates in a second combining mode; and
 - c) an interlock assembly adapted to permit selectively operating the device in the first combining mode or the second combining mode, wherein the interlock assembly comprises a first one-way bearing mounted to the rotor and the hollow member, and wherein the first one-way bearing is adapted to permit the rotor to rotate in a first direction independent of the hollow member in the first combining mode and to interlock the hollow member and the rotor so that the hollow member rotates with the rotor in a second opposite direction in the second combining mode.
7. (original) The device of Claim 6, further comprising an external housing and an actuator, wherein the interlock assembly comprises a second one-way bearing mounted to the hollow member and the external housing or the actuator.
8. (original) The device of Claim 7, wherein the second one-way bearing is adapted to restrict rotation of the hollow member when the rotor is rotated in the first direction in the first combining mode and to permit the interlocked hollow member and rotor to rotate in the second opposite direction independent of the external housing.

9. (currently amended) The device of Claim 1, A device for combining components, comprising:
 - a) a hollow member and a rotor at least partially within the hollow member, wherein the rotor rotates in a first combining mode;
 - b) a plurality of fins extending outwardly from the hollow member, wherein the hollow member rotates in a second combining mode, and wherein the rotor has one or more blades and the hollow member has a plurality of windows defined therein in alignment with the rotor blades.
10. (original) The device of Claim 9, wherein the windows are interposed between the fins.
11. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the fins are angled to induce radial and axial flow of the components in the second combining mode.
12. (original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a collar that is removably mounted to the hollow member and that has the fins mounted thereto.
13. (original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising an actuator operably coupled to the rotor.
14. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the rotor and the hollow member are configured to perform high-shear homogenizing in the first combining mode and to perform low-shear mixing in the second combining mode.

15. (currently amended) A device for combining components, comprising:

- a) a hollow member and a rotor having one or more blades that rotate at least partially within the hollow member in a first combining mode to perform high-shear homogenizing;
- b) a plurality of fins extending outwardly from the hollow member, wherein the hollow member rotates in a second combining mode to perform low-shear mixing;
- c) an actuator operably coupled to the rotor; and
- d) an interlock assembly adapted to permit selectively operating the device in the first combining mode or the second combining mode, wherein the interlock assembly is adapted to permit the rotor to rotate independent of the hollow member and to restrict rotation of the hollow member in the first combining mode, and to interlock the hollow member and the rotor so that the hollow member rotates with the rotor in the second combining mode.

16. (original) The device of Claim 15, wherein the interlock assembly comprises a first one-way bearing mounted to the rotor and the hollow member, wherein the first one-way bearing is adapted to permit the rotor to rotate in a first direction independent of the hollow member in the first combining mode and to interlock the hollow member and the rotor so that the hollow member rotates with the rotor in a second opposite direction in the second combining mode.

17. (original) The device of Claim 16, further comprising an external housing for the actuator, wherein the interlock assembly comprises a second one-way bearing mounted to the hollow member and the external housing or the actuator, wherein the second one-way bearing is adapted to restrict rotation of the hollow member when the rotor is rotated in the first direction in the first combining mode and to permit the interlocked hollow member and rotor to rotate in the second opposite direction independent of the external housing.

18. (original) The device of Claim 17, wherein the actuator comprises a reversible motor that is operable in the first direction or the second opposite direction for operating the device in the first combining mode or the second combining mode
19. (original) The device of Claim 15, wherein the hollow member has a plurality of windows defined therein in alignment with the rotor blades and interposed between the fins.
20. (original) The device of Claim 15, wherein the fins are angled to induce radial and axial flow of the components in the second combining mode.
21. (original) The device of Claim 15, further comprising a collar that is removably mounted to the hollow member and that has the fins mounted thereto.
22. (withdrawn)
23. (withdrawn)
24. (withdrawn)
25. (new) The device of Claim 1, wherein the rotor blades are radially inside the hollow member, and the fins are radially outside the hollow member, and the blades and the fins are laterally aligned and positioned adjacent the bottom end of the hollow member.

26. (new) The device of Claim 1, wherein in the first combining mode, the rotor blades are rotationally driven but the hollow member is not, without decoupling the rotor or the hollow member from the device.
27. (new) The device of Claim 1, wherein in the second combining mode, the hollow member and the rotor blades are rotationally driven together.